

The Siege of Ottawa

It was almost possible through having their own paper that the Grain Growers of the west were able to force the tariff question into the field of federal politics. In the summer of 1910, Sir Wilfrid Laurier was preparing to appeal to the country in a general election. He named out a list of the prairie provinces which he had not visited since he had been premier. It was planned as a triumphal march in which the oratory and the personality of the Canadian prime minister would win the support of the western voters. The leaders of the Grain Growers' Movement, however, decided it was a good opportunity to tell Sir Wilfrid Laurier the grievances of the West. They made their plans, and it developed upon The Guide to rally the grain growers in support of the scheme. The result was that wherever Sir Wilfrid Laurier stopped to make a speech in the prairie provinces, he was met by a delegation of grain growers. They told Sir Wilfrid in the plainest words permitted by the English language, just what was wrong with the policy of his government. Sir Wilfrid's education progressed rapidly as he passed through the prairie provinces. At Brandon, he thought the tariff was all right. In Saskatchewan he had his doubts and promised to look into it. Before he got through Alberta however, he was absolutely sure that the tariff was wrong and he promised to appoint a tariff commission to investigate it. But the Grain Growers wanted no tariff commission; they wanted action. The "Siege of Ottawa" was planned by the leaders and again The Guide was effective in rallying the Grain Growers. The result was a general strike for four hours to the farmers of the West, the farmers of Ontario and the Eastern provinces in their demand for justice.

The Reciprocity Defeat

In February 1911 the reciprocity treaty was negotiated with United States and an election was called. R. L. Borden (now Sir Robert Borden, premier of Canada), toured the West in the summer of 1911 and was met by the Grain Growers the same as had been Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Mr. Borden, however, proved obdurate and refused any consideration on the tariff question. The result of the election is well known, and Sir Robert Borden has been Premier of Canada ever since. But the tariff still remains a live issue and will be more lively as years go by.

It would be impossible to consider in detail the phases of the struggles in which The Guide has taken part. Through having their own paper the leaders of the Grain Growers' Movement have been able to get more closely in touch with their members and to reach them promptly every week. The development of the co-operative movement throughout the world has been brought home and published year by year through The Guide. Thousands of articles on political social and economic questions have reached the farmers through The Guide, which would not have been available had not the farmers published their own official organ.

The Field of The Guide

In short, the policy of The Grain Growers' Guide has been the policy of the organized Grain Growers of the three prairie provinces, and also in resolutions at their annual conventions. Outside of such questions The Guide has

followed the course of progress and democracy and sought to give its readers the best thought towards the development of the highest civilization. Contributions have been accepted from leading writers and thinkers in every English-speaking country. There are few publications that have served their readers with such a wide range of valuable and authoritative articles as have been published in The Grain Growers' Guide in the last ten years. It has been through The Guide that the rest of Canada is learning of the Grain Growers' Movement, its accomplishments and its plans. The Guide today goes regularly into the office of every important publication in Canada and is read carefully by politicians and business men throughout the length and breadth of the land. The Grain Growers Movement has become a national factor with The Guide as its chief journalistic exponent. The Guide is also subscribed to by all the agricultural colleges and most of the university libraries on the American continent, where it is closely followed by thousands of students. It also goes into every part of the English-speaking world where men are seeking to improve conditions and want to know what the Grain Growers are doing.

As Official Organ

From the very beginning a special department in The Guide was set apart for each of the organizations which employ it as their official organ. These departments have been conducted by the provincial secretaries of these organizations. Every week for the last nine years the reports of the local associations have gone throughout the length and breadth of the prairie provinces. Seven or eight years ago farmers read of the work of the Grain Growers, and scores of local associations were organized by men who had only read of the work through the pages of The Guide. In the last two or three years the farm women have developed their own organizations. A department in The Guide has been set aside especially for their use and for the publication of the reports of their local associations. The organized farmers have always championed the cause of women in their demand for the franchise and have given them equal representation in their own organizations. Following this, the Guide has supported the farm women in their work and sought to aid them in every way in bettering rural conditions in the West.

The Home of The Guide

One year after The Guide was first published, it was decided that the organized farmers should establish their own publishing plant. This plan was carried out and the incorporated name of The Grain Growers' Guide is and has been Public Press Limited. The first publishing plant was built in June 1909, on Sherbrooke street, Winnipeg. It was hoped at the time that it was big enough to serve the needs of the journal for ten years. Although three additions were made to the plant by 1917 it was found impossible to continue in such small quarters. Consequently, a handsome, reinforced concrete plant, 160 feet by 120 feet, and three stories high, was erected on Broadway, Winnipeg. The Guide moved into this new home in October 1917. When The Guide was first published in its own plant nine years ago, the staff consisted of six people, and in the printing plant there were 25 additional members. Today, in the new building, The Guide staff comprises 45 members, while the staff in the printing plant comprises 110 additional people. The entire plant is owned absolutely by the organized farmers. It is devoted to the publication of The Grain Growers' Guide and also to commercial printing by the farmers' companies and by the trade generally, and is one of the largest printing establishments in Western Canada. The cost of the new plant, including its equipment, was approximately \$250,000. The present growth of The Guide will make it necessary shortly to add additional stories to the building and to increase the equipment necessary to take care of a steadily growing paper. The plant is modern and up-to-date in every respect.

The Guide Artist

One of the features of The Guide, which has always been in great favor with its readers, has been the cartoons and the illustrations by The Guide artist, Arch Dalziel. The Guide artist, is the only member of the original staff now connected with The Guide. His cartoons have played a big part in the development of the organized farmers' movement, and are as popular today as they were in the beginning. Mr. Dalziel is still in The Guide office and a close friend of the Grain Growers' Movement. Recently, for the entertainment of children and some older children as well, he has developed the "Dad Dailies" which have been a constant delight to the youthful readers of The Guide.

45,000 Weekly Readers

In ten years The Guide has grown from nothing to a circulation of 45,000 weekly, which is the largest figure yet reached by farm journals in Western Canada. It is, however, covering as yet only a small portion of the field and it is hoped that in years to come The Guide will be going out to at least 100,000 farm homes every week, in the prairie provinces. At the beginning it was decided not to give The Guide free to members of the farmers' organizations, as it usually does in the case of other official organs. It was thought by those in charge of The Guide that it would be better for each subscriber to pay his subscription to the paper. It would have the paper more, and whatever progress the paper made would be reflected in the association and vice-versa. The wisdom of that policy has been demonstrated by the development of The Guide and of the organization. In the early days The Guide sustained a very heavy financial loss. It has cost the Grain Growers organization many thousands of dollars to keep The Guide in the field. The subscription price was raised from \$1.00 to \$1.50 in 1915. The readers of The Guide have loyally paid the increased price to help put The Guide on its feet. The advertising revenue of The Guide has also grown steadily until at the present time, at the end of its tenth year, it is standing on its own feet financially. It was not the intention at the beginning, nor is it the intention at the present time, that The Guide should ever be a commercial proposition. Any money which is made by publishing The Guide will be put back into the journal to improve its service to its readers and make it, if possible, the greatest farmer's paper published in North America.

In recent years there has been a growing demand from readers of The Guide that they should be given information on the readers and make it, if possible, the greatest farmer's paper published in North America.

extend this service and add livestock and field husbandry. The main purpose of The Guide has been and always will be, to be the journalistic medium of the Grain Growers' Movement. But the readers of The Guide are farmers as well as citizens and the purpose of The Guide is to serve them in both capacities and develop an all-round farm journal and magazine of the highest possible efficiency.

A Proud Record

The record of The Grain Growers' Guide in the past ten years has been one of which its readers and its staff have good reason to be proud. Without egotism it can be said that no official organ ever developed by farmers has been better received or more loyally supported by its readers. Nor has any such journal ever given its readers a better service than that which The Grain Growers' Guide has rendered. But The Guide is yet very far from being perfect. Those most closely connected with it most clearly realize its shortcomings. It takes a lot of money to publish a paper. The \$1.50 subscription price which the reader pays covers only half the cost of the publication. The other half must be made up by advertising or else it must be made in other ways. It also requires a staff of well-trained men and women to publish an efficient journal of the wide scope of The Guide as well as other institutions. John W. Ward, for six years associate editor of The Guide, is now in the trenches. Ernest J. Trett, associate editor of The Guide, is doing war service in a munitions factory in London. Several other members of The Guide staff are also doing military service. The places of such men are not easily filled, but the staff has been rebuilt and the work has been kept up even under such difficulties.

Looking Forward

What the future holds in store for The Grain Growers' Guide depends on the future of Canada. In ten years a great deal has been accomplished. In another ten years, at the same rate of progress, it is possible to see a paper that should become a journal giving a service to its readers which has never been equalled or even attempted by any official organ of the organized farmers on the continent of North America. This is saying a great deal, but the progress of the last ten years warrants it and the growth of the Grain Growers' Movement gives adequate promise of its fulfillment. The Grain Growers' organization will be one of the biggest factors in shaping the future of Canada. The Grain Growers' Guide and other organs of the farmers' movement in the east will bring about a wider fulfillment of that platform and a better Canada in which to live and work. The purpose of those connected with The Grain Growers' Guide that it shall be able to play its part well in the great work and great struggle in which the organized farmers are engaged. And when the fight is ended and the victory won, there will still be great service which The Guide can render to its readers for all time to come.

Rural Reconstruction in Ireland

By Lionel Smith-Gordon, M.A.

Literature Co-operative Reference Library; Ad. Secretary Irish Agricultural Organisation Society

and Laurence C. Staples

Donation Parker Travelling Fellow Harvard University

Order from

Book Department, The Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg, Man.

THIS volume, according to the word of no less an acknowledged authority, the George A. R. Russell (A.E.), "contains the most complete and accurate history" of the co-operative movement amongst the farming people of Ireland. The force of economic interest in uniting a people is revealed in this informative and brilliant work. But the fact is, it is some time since we have had so important a contribution to our economic literature. Not only is it valuable as a record for future reference but it is replete with points of practical interest at the moment.

Postpaid \$2.25